

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06671 272105Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6671

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR, XO, RH
SUBJECT: USSR AMBASSADOR VORONTSOV ON RHODESIA AND THE INDIAN
OCEAN

1. IN THE COURSE OF A LONG AND OTHERWISE RATHER CASUAL
CONVERSATION TODAY, THE NEW RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, YULI
VORONSTOV, RAISED WITH ME TWO MATTER OF NOTE.
2. ONE WAS THE INDIAN OCEAN. WHEN HE ASKED MY OPINION ABOUT
THE STATE OF YOUR NEGOTIATIONS, I REPLIED THAT THEY SEEMED TO
HAVE SLOWED DOWN BECAUSE OF RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN OF
AFRICA OF WHICH WE DISAPPROVED. HE AGREED, BUT WENT ON TO
SAY THAT THAT WAS A SPECIAL AND LIMITED SITUATION. "ETHIOPIA",
HE SAID, "WILL BE LARGELY FORGOTTEN IN A SHORT TIME, BUT THE INDIAN
OCEAN WILL REMAIN". WE THEN PROCEEDED TO AGREE THAT AN US-USSR
AGREEMENT NOT TO LET THE INDIAN OCEAN BECOME AN AREA OF MILITARY
COMPETITION BETWEEN US WOULD BE A GOOD THING, AND HE URGED THAT THE
U.S. SHOULD BE ACTIVE IN SEEKING THAT RESULT. (COMMENT: I DONT
QUITE KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET HIS COMMENTS ON ETHIOPIA. PERHAPS
HE WAS BRUSHING ASIDE THE RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT THERE BECAUSE IT
WAS A SOCIAL OCCASION, THIS WAS OUR FIRST MEETING, AND IT SEEMED
THE WRONG SETTING FOR A MORE SEARCHING KIND OF GIVE AND TAKE.
WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE ENDURING NATURE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, I
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TOOK TO MEAN THAT WHAT WE AND THE RUSSIANS DO THERE WILL BE A
CONTINUING MATTER OF SENSITIVE CONCERN FOR INDIA AND THE OTHER
LITTORAL STATES.)

3. MORE SIGNIFICANT, I THOUGHT, WERE SOME COMMENTS VORONTSOV
OFFERED ON THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE U.S. AND THE U.K. ACTING TO END THE IMPASSE THERE. HE

SAID WE SHOULD BE FIRM WITH THE WHITES FOR THEIR OWN GOOD. IF
THEY CONTINUE TO OBSTRUCT A SETTLEMENT, "WITHIN 12 OR 18 MONTHS
YOU MAY HAVE THE SAME SITUATION IN RHODESIA THAT YOU HAVE HAD
IN ETHIOPIA". (COMMENT: I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE QUOTATION IS
EXACT. THE IMPLICATION SEEMS OBVIOUS, BUT WHY HE SHOULD SEEK
TO MAKE IT SO PASSES MY UNDERSTANDING.)
GOHEEN

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